

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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***For Immediate Release*****Contact:**

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**COASTAL COMMISSION AWARDS GRANTS TOTALING \$816,000
TO MARINE AND COASTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA**

⇒ Parent and child coastal stewardship education in Salinas ⇒ outings to the Tijuana Estuary and Catalina Island ⇒ ocean education on the rural north coast ⇒ an ocean exhibit at the State Fair ⇒ boat trips where teens study ocean acidification ⇒ These programs and more benefit from the latest round of funding from California's WHALE TAIL® License Plate.

(SAN FRANCISCO, June 19, 2014)—The California Coastal Commission has just finished awarding a new record in financial support for a single fiscal year: \$816,000 to 36 marine education projects. The grants are funded by sales of the popular WHALE TAIL® License Plate. (See below for license plate purchasing information.)

Grants were awarded to the following organizations (*individual project descriptions, organized by county, are provided in the attachment*):

SAN DIEGO COUNTY:

I Love A Clean San Diego (2)
Ocean Discovery Institute
Outdoor Outreach
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

ORANGE COUNTY:

ExplorOcean
Gray Whale Foundation
Orange County Coastkeeper

LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Beach Ecology Coalition
Camino Nuevo Charter Academy
City2 Sea
Heal the Bay
Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education

SANTA BARBARA AND VENTURA COUNTIES:

Cachuma Resource Conservation District
UC Santa Barbara, Marine Science Institute

FRESNO COUNTY:

Fresno's Chaffee Zoo

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MONTEREY COUNTY:

Camp SEA Lab
Return of the Natives

SAN FRANCISCO/ALAMEDA COUNTIES:

Edventure More
Small Schools for Equity

MARIN COUNTY:

Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary

SACRAMENTO COUNTY:

California Exposition & State Fair

NEVADA COUNTY:

Sierra Streams Institute

MENDOCINO COUNTY:

City of Fort Bragg/Noyo Center for Science and Education

HUMBOLDT COUNTY:

Friends of the Dunes
Mattole Restoration Council
Northcoast Environmental Center

DEL NORTE COUNTY:

Rural Human Services

STATEWIDE:

California State Parks Foundation
Clean Water Fund
Earth Alert
National Fisheries Conservation Center
Ocean Communicators Alliance
The Ocean Foundation
Tides Center (2)

The grants program supports marine education and coastal habitat improvement programs in California. Funding priorities include:

- high-quality coastal and marine education;
- providing access to the coast for underserved students and populations;
- general public education on issues about the health of watersheds and the ocean;
- enhancement of beaches or other coastal habitats;
- reaching low-income, multicultural, or inland populations;
- creative, innovative ideas.

The WHALE TAIL[®] Grants Program runs on an annual cycle and grant applications for the next cycle will be available in the fall of 2014. Please call (800) COAST-4U or e-mail coast4u@coastal.ca.gov to be put on a mailing list or for other information.

The WHALE TAIL[®] License Plate is a way for individuals to use their purchasing power to support marine education, and to make a statement of their support for our coast and ocean. Revenue from sales of the plate benefit a variety of coastal and marine

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education and conservation programs, including the WHALE TAIL[®] License Plate grants program. To date, over 221,000 Californians have purchased the WHALE TAIL[®] Plate. It is one of the most popular specialty plates in California. The plate features an image of a whale diving into the sea. It costs \$50, or \$98 to have it personalized. The annual renewal fee is \$40 for a regular plate and \$78 for a personalized plate. The WHALE TAIL[®] plate can be ordered over the Internet at WWW.ECOPLATES.COM, by calling (800) COAST-4U, or through the DMV.

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination. The WHALE TAIL[®] Grants Program is part of its effort to raise public awareness of marine and coastal resources and promote coastal stewardship.

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2013/14 WHALE TAIL® GRANTS BY COUNTY

SAN DIEGO COUNTY (\$93,729):

- **I Love A Clean San Diego** for the Adopt-A-Beach Program in San Diego County (\$29,550). The program will recognize beach cleanup volunteers through signs at their adopted beaches, give interpretive presentations to groups conducting their cleanups, recruit “adopters” for inland creeks, track litter collected using a database, and install more “do it yourself” beach cleanup stations.
- **I Love A Clean San Diego** for the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in San Diego County (\$18,000). The program will educate students at 7 underserved elementary schools about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 700 students.
- **Ocean Discovery Institute** for Ocean Science Explorers (\$22,407). Sixth-graders from City Heights will learn about earth science, carbon dioxide emissions, climate change, and renewable resources through the study of microfossils, ice cores, climate trends, and solar energy. Teachers of the 600 students will receive professional training, lesson plans, and classroom materials and books.
- **Outdoor Outreach** for the “Youth Outdoors!” program (\$5,500). Teens from southern San Diego County will take part in outings to the Tijuana Estuary to learn about the local environments there, help clean the area and restore habitat, and enjoy outdoor recreation.
- **San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy** for “Our Living Watershed” program (\$18,272). Over several school years, 1st through 5th grade students from Escondido and Vista will visit San Elijo Lagoon and learn about wetlands, food chains, coastal lagoons, and water resources.

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ORANGE COUNTY (\$72,000):

- **ExplorOcean** for “Ocean Literacy for All” (\$35,000). Underserved K-12 students in the KidWorks program in Santa Ana will learn about the principles of ocean literacy through hands-on activities after school and during summer camp excursions and activities at the Ocean Literacy Center (formerly the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum).
- **Gray Whale Foundation** for youth research trips and in-class lessons (\$20,000). Students in grades 4 and 5 from southern Orange County will learn about gray whales and the marine environment through a science curriculum provided to their teachers and through collecting and analyzing data on two-hour whale watching trips.
- **Orange County Coastkeeper** for the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in Orange County (\$17,000). The program will educate students at ten inland elementary schools about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 1,000 students.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY (\$73,910):

- **Beach Ecology Coalition** for an urban beach monitoring program (\$9,915). Community volunteers will team up with scientists, teachers, and Pepperdine University students to measure the ecological health of urban sandy beaches in southern California. They will use many different indicators and share the data with public agencies to help inform land use planning.
- **Camino Nuevo Charter Academy** for an educational trip to Catalina Island (\$6,000). Seventh-graders from the underserved Westlake neighborhood of Los Angeles will spend three days and two nights with USC's Wrigley Marine Institute doing lab activities, hiking, surveying the intertidal zone, and snorkeling. Upon their return, they will teach younger students at their school about what they learned on the trip.
- **City2 Sea** for ocean acidification expeditions (\$9,995). Teens at four underserved high schools in the Los Angeles area will learn about ocean acidification and carbon footprints, and then go out on a boat to collect water samples and perform water quality tests in an onboard laboratory.
- **Heal the Bay** for continuing the Adopt-A-Beach Program in Los Angeles County (\$30,000). Activities will include arranging cleanups for volunteers who adopt beaches, holding large monthly public cleanup events, and transporting students from underserved inland schools for a beach cleanup and educational presentation.
- **Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education** for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in Los Angeles County (\$18,000). The program will educate students at 12 underserved elementary schools about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 1,200 students.

SANTA BARBARA AND VENTURA COUNTIES (\$37,964):

- **Cachuma Resource Conservation District** for environmental education in Guadalupe (\$9,964). Fifth-graders at Mary Buren Elementary will learn about watershed stewardship, dune restoration, and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. They will also educate their community about preventing water pollution. The RCD will share the lesson plans with their teachers and other schools as well.
- **UC Santa Barbara, Marine Science Institute** for the Community RESTOR Project (\$28,000). Teachers and students at underserved Ventura County middle and high schools will participate in a year-long watershed education project including water quality testing, wetland restoration at Ormond Beach, and a day-long research cruise in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

FRESNO COUNTY (\$7,500):

- **Fresno's Chaffee Zoo** for a Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup (\$7,500). The program will educate 200 students from underserved schools in Fresno about the harmful effects of ocean pollution and will bring the children to Monterey County for a beach cleanup event.

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MONTEREY COUNTY (\$35,500):

- **Camp SEA Lab** for activities in 2014 (\$15,000). Camp SEA Lab is an ocean science education camp offering both residential and day camp sessions for young people and live-aboard sailing programs for teens. The camp will also hold marine science workshops for families, provide training for teachers, and operate an outdoor science school during the school year.
- **Return of the Natives** for “Flows to the Ocean” (\$20,500). Children in Salinas will learn how their schoolyard litter gets washed downstream to Monterey Bay, clean a local Salinas Creek, and visit the coast for a beach cleanup and planting native dune plants. Their parents will have their own bilingual ocean stewardship lesson. Their teachers will lead “Flows to the Bay” lessons and guide their students in presenting to other classrooms and leading schoolyard litter cleanups.

SAN FRANCISCO AND ALAMEDA COUNTIES (\$18,950):

- **Edventure More** of San Francisco for “Watershed Edventures” (\$9,750). Elementary students at underserved Oakland public schools will learn about watersheds and the connection between their local environment and the ocean through an after-school program with a curriculum designed in partnership with the California Academy of Sciences. They will also be invited to participate in two shoreline cleanup and water quality testing events.
- **Small Schools for Equity** for biology class field trips and field supplies (\$9,200). High school students from underserved southeast neighborhoods of San Francisco attending June Jordan School for Equity will go on three all-day outings. Field biology students will visit bayshore parks and wetlands for their studies, and marine biology students will go on a scientific expedition on San Francisco Bay and a kayaking expedition at Elkhorn Slough.

MARIN COUNTY (\$14,000):

- **Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary** of Tiburon for the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in the San Francisco Bay Area (\$14,000). The program will educate students at underserved elementary schools in Marin and San Francisco about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 800 students.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY (\$40,000):

- **California Exposition & State Fair** for the “Beach Buddy Adventure” (\$40,000). A large exhibition at the 2014 State Fair about the coast and ocean will feature aquatic flora and fauna, different stations with conservation information and activities, and information on ways people can get involved with helping California’s coastal environment.

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NEVADA COUNTY (\$9,573):

- **Sierra Streams Institute** for the “Climate Change Exchange” (\$9,573). A year-long environmental science program for students in grades 7 and 8 at the rural Yuba River Charter School in Nevada City will focus on Central Valley Chinook salmon as a means to learning about connections between mountain and coastal habitats and the effects of climate change on those habitats.

MENDOCINO COUNTY (\$35,000):

- **City of Fort Bragg/Noyo Center for Science and Education** for the Blue Whale Educational Program (\$35,000). This new center at the former Georgia Pacific mill site on the Fort Bragg waterfront will host marine science activities for the whole family, featuring the reconstructed skeleton of a blue whale that died locally. Staff will also arrange ocean-related public lectures and provide marine mammal education in Fort Bragg, Mendocino, and Point Arena schools.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY (\$69,830):

- **Friends of the Dunes** for the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in Humboldt County (\$14,000). The assembly program will educate students at underserved and inland elementary schools about dune ecosystems and the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup and invasive plant removal event for 800 students.
- **Mattole Restoration Council** for the Mattole Youth Environmental Stewards program (\$25,510). A partnership of five organizations will provide environmental education programming in the remote Mattole Valley through lessons and field trips covering a variety of coastal and watershed topics. Counselor training and restoration and stewardship activities will also be offered during the summer at Lost Coast Camp, and land stewardship internships will be provided for local teens.
- **Northcoast Environmental Center** for “Clean Beaches, Healthy Communities” (\$30,320). Northcoast Environmental Center will lead a number of public education programs including teaching youth about marine pollution; developing a watershed diorama that shows best practices in reducing water pollution; creating a traveling sculpture out of collected beach debris; posting signs in Arcata to raise public awareness about sea level rise; and promoting and enhancing the Humboldt County Adopt-A-Beach program.

DEL NORTE COUNTY (\$9,997):

- **Rural Human Services** for raising salmon and steelhead trout in the classroom (\$9,997). Students of all ages will incubate fish eggs in classroom aquariums that mimic ideal natural stream conditions. After they hatch, the students will bring the fry back to Rowdy Creek and release them.

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STATEWIDE (\$298,047):

- **California State Parks Foundation** for a new coastal protection curriculum (\$34,650). A new curriculum of project-based lessons will teach high school students coastal science, policy, and management in the context of the issues facing the California coast.
- **Clean Water Fund** for “Rethink Disposable” marine debris prevention information (\$17,850). Clean Water Fund will develop informational materials, video, and table displays to educate the public about how most marine debris items are take-out food and beverage packaging and what their reusable alternatives are. Outreach materials will be distributed to Adopt-A-Beach and Coastal Cleanup Day coordinators.
- **Earth Alert** for the “Heroes of the Coast” documentary (\$9,360). Earth Alert will complete a one-hour documentary about the history of coastal preservation in California.
- **National Fisheries Conservation Center** for the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup (\$11,814). This grant will support statewide coordination of an aerial art component at the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup events, as well as upgrades to the event’s website.
- **Ocean Communicators Alliance** for Marine Protected Area docent training handbooks (\$9,708). The California Ocean Communicators Alliance will develop four regional handbooks with information that docents and naturalists at California Marine Protected Areas can share with their visitors. They will also provide training on how to share background information and conservation tips with the public.
- **The Ocean Foundation** for the Squids4Kids program (\$9,665). Hopkins Marine Lab will ship frozen Humboldt squid (which can grow six feet long and weigh 100 pounds) to teachers throughout California for their classes to dissect. The program also offers lesson plans, dissection guidelines, and video documentaries, and it will visit science festivals and classrooms for in-person marine science presentations.
- **Tides Center** for school-based marine education activities (\$99,000), including developing educational materials and providing teacher training workshops; and for the Community-Based Restoration and Education Program (CBREP) (\$106,000). The CBREP will provide training and assistance to community-based wetland habitat restoration groups. In Orange County, the program will mobilize community volunteers to restore habitat at Upper Newport Bay.

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